

[6th March 1926]

I

ASSENT OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR TO THE AMENDMENTS
TO STANDING ORDER No. 3.

The hon. the President announced that the amendments to Standing Order No. 3, passed at the meeting of the Council held on the 12th February 1926, received the assent of His Excellency the Governor on the 5th March 1926.

II

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET FOR 1926-27—*cont.*

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the member.]

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ Before the general discussion on the budget is resumed, may I appeal to hon. Members to observe very strictly the time-limit so as to allow as many members, as are willing, to take part in the debate? May I specially appeal to those members who are going to make written speeches to be merciful to those who are capable of making more debating speeches? I believe their point will be gained if their written speeches are entered in the proceedings of the House. In return I would ask them to read illustrative extracts from their written speeches.”

* Mr. L. C. GURUSWAMI :—“ Mr. President, Sir, in placing the budget for 1926-27 before this Council the hon. Mr. T. E. Moir feels sorry in not being able to give a more attractive picture of our financial position during that year. However he has been able to find money for the nation building departments and it is gratifying to note that elementary education will have some substantial impetus given to it in the coming year. Should the creation of the new elementary schools give facility to the depressed classes also without any distinction of caste or creed, I might congratulate the Government on this item of expenditure. But if the ten lakhs of rupees more than the revised estimate for the year 1925-26 are to be spent as usual perpetuating the existing difference between the caste Hindu boys and non-caste Hindu boys, I would request that a big slice of it ought to be cut off for the use of the Labour Department, as the work of that department is still in its infancy and as more districts await the introduction of Labour offices.

“ No doubt the Labour Department gets an increase for the betterment of the depressed classes for which I feel thankful to the Government. But I wish to point out that the provision made is very small when compared with the work that yet remains to be done. I might say that the dumb folks have not even the standing space in the onward march of education and as such some more efforts are to be made to uplift those classes of people and the Government is the only prop on which they depend.

“ There seems to be a necessity for the appointment of a committee to find out the ways and means to speedily and effectively improve the very low and backward condition of the depressed classes in this Presidency and also to explore all possible means of educating the depressed classes. Further all that could be done, even as the deficit budget goes, has not been done. I have to complain that the rules for levying fees from the pupils of the depressed classes are not conducive to attract them to schools. The rigid iron rule of Grant-in-Aid Code is such that the depressed classes could not find